

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 6482

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (TOLBERT, WILLIAM R JR)

SUBJ: TOLBERT STATE VISIT

1. OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS AND IN A VARIETY OF CHANNELS, STATE/AID AND THIS MISSION HAVE BEEN EXAMINING WAYS TO ACHEIVE, WITH REGARD TO TOLBERT'S VISIT, THE US OBJECTIVE OF ARTICULATING PUBLICLY THE NATURE OF US/LIBERIAN RELATIONS AND IN PARTICULAR THE US COMMITMENT, AS EXPRESSED IN RECENT PAST BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AND OTHERS, TO CONTINUED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA. WE PROPOSE FOR WASHINGTON'S CONSIDERATION THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTED TEXT FOR PRESIDENT FORD'S TOAST AT THE STATE DINNER SEPTEMBER 21. WHILE WE SUGGEST THIS FORMAT AS PERHAPS THE BEST SUITED TO ACHIEVE THE PUBLIC EXPOSURE WE ARE SEEKING, WE RECOGNIZE THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE IN THE BEST POSITION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE POINTS WEHAVE ATTEMPTED TO MAKE WOULD BE BETTER SUITED FOR THE SECRETARY'S TOAST AT HIS LUNCHEON, FOR THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS READ-OUT AFTER THE OVAL OFFICE MEETING, OR IN THE COURSE OF OTHER PUBLIC OCCASIONS.

2. SUGGESTED TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: WE ARE DEEPLY HONORED THAT YOU HAVE COME TO THE UNITED STATES TO SHARE WITH US THE CELEBRATION OF OUR BICENTENNIAL. EACH OF OUR COUNTRIES IS THE OLDEST REPUBLIC ON ITS CONTINENT AND OUR BI-LATERAL RELATIONS SPAN A CENTURY AND A HALF--A PERIOD WHICH HAS BEEN MAKED BY CONTINUED FREINDSHIP AND COOPERATION.

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OUR PLEASE AT HAVING YOU VISIT US AT THIS IMPORTANT MOMENT IN

OUR OWN HISTORY IS HEIGHTENED BY THE SPECIAL QUALITY OF OUR RELATIONS

BOTH OUR REPUBLICS WERE BORN BY DECLARATIONS OF OUR PEOPLE OF THE RIGHT TO SELF-GOVERNMENT. BOTH A RULED BY LAW, BY CONSTITUTIONS FOUNDED ON THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE TO ENJOY LIFE, LIBERTY AND SECURITY. BOTH OUR PEOPLES ARE SERVED BY A BILL OF RIGHTS THAT SAFEGUARD THOSE INALIENABLE RIGHTS. BOTH OUR CONSTITUTIONS HAVE STOOD THE TEST OF TIME AND REMAIN, FOR EACH OF US, THE BASIC LAW OF OUR LANDS.

THE SIMILARITY OF OUR HISTORY, OUR SHARED VALUES HAVE MADE US NATURAL FRIENDS. WE ARE CLOSE AND TRADITIONAL TRADING PARTNERS. OUR PRIVATE CITIZENS HAVE BEEN PARTICIPANTS IN YOUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WORKING WITH YOUR PEOPLE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL. WE WERE ALLIES IN BOTH WORLD WARS. WE WERE FOUNDING PARTNERS IN THE BUILDING OF BOTH THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS. JUST AS OUR PRE

DECESSORS, YOU AND I AND LEADING OFFICIALS FROM BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS MAINTAIN A CONTINUED CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND WE SHARE A COMMITMENT TO CONFRONT THE PROBLEMS THAT FACE US IN THE WORLD IN THE SPIRIT OF CONSULTATION AND COMPROMISE.

ABOVE ALL, THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, THROUGH ITS GOVERNMENT, HAVE BEEN PROUD TO PLAY A SUBSTANTIAL ROLE-CONTINUED FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS-IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF LIBERIA.

THIS MORNING IN THE OVAL OFFICE, WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THAT PROGRAM AND TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

I WAS PLEASED TO LEARN FROM YOU OF YOUR CURRENT FOUR-YEAR PLAN THAT LOOKS TO IMPROVING THE LOT OF THE RURAL POOR, INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY, UPGRADING EDUCATION AND DEVELOPING HUMAN RESOURCES. THESE ARE PRIORITIES WHICH WE SHARE AND MY GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE WITH YOU HOW WE MAY ASSIST YOU WITH THEM.

LET ME ENUMERATE BRIEFLY SOME OF OUR THINKING FOR THE FUTURE:
--WE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED SIGNIFICANTLY IN ASSISTING YOU IN THE EXPANSION OF YOUR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND WE EXPECT IN THE FUTURE TO BE COLLABORATING WITH YOU IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVES, TRAINING CENTERS AND RESEARCH.

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--OUR ASSISTANCE TO YOUR INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENTS EFFORTS WILL BE EXPANDED AS WILL OUR COOPERATION IN OPENING UP YOUR COUNTRY THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF RURAL AND FARM TO MARKET ROADS.
--I FEEL CONFIDENT THAT GIVEN YOUR OWN GOALS, A HIGHLY USEFUL PROGRAM OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES CAN BE MOUNTED WHICH WILL PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL ANNUAL US SUPPORT OF LIBERIA'S LONG-RANGE EDUCATION PLAN FOR 1976-1985.
--WE ALREADY ARE COLLABORATING WITH YOU TO DEVELOP A RURAL-ORIENTED

NATIONAL HEALTH DELIVERY PROGRAM IN LIBERIA. BUT WE NOW SEE AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR THE JOHN F KENNEDY MEDICAL CENTER IN THIS BROAD PROGRAM THROUGH ITS OUTREACH OPERATIONS. ACCORDINGLY WE PROPOSE TO PRESENT TO CONGRESS A THREE-YEAR PROJECT TO HELP FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTER'S CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE SUPPORTATIVE SERVICES TO THE RURAL HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM OF LIBERIA.

--ANOTHER AREA OF ASSISTANCE WE HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION IS THAT OF HOUSING. WE ARE ACTIVELY EXPLORING AREAS OF POTENTIAL COOPERATION WITH YOU IN A LOW INCOME HOUSING PROJECT BY MATCHING THE HOUSING INVESTMENT GUARANTY ALREADY AUTHORIZED WITH ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONAL ASSISTANCE. IF OUR JOINT REVIEW IS FAVORABLE SUCH ASSISTANCE WILL BE INCLUDED IN OUR PROPOSALS TO THE CONGRESS.

--TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE APPLICATION OF SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IS ANOTHER AREA IN WHICH LIBERIA HAS SHOWN AN INTEREST AND INWHICH WE ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE. A EXPERIMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE WHICH HAS THE UNIQUE CAPABILITY OF BROADCASTING TO VERY SMALL INEXPENSIVE RECEIVERS IS BEING DEMONSTRATED IN LIBERIA NEXT MONTH. WE HOPE TO ADD A SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY PROJECT TO OUR PLANNED PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA FOR FISCAL 1978.

IF ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS CAN BE CARRIED OUT IN TIME, OUR ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA IN 1977 AND 1978 WILL SUBSTANTIALLY MORE THAN DOUBLE THE TOTAL OF THE LST TWO YEARS. I DO NOT MAKE THIS STATEMENT TO BOAST, MR PRESIDENT, AMERICANS FEEL PRIVILEGED TO SHARE IN YOUR COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA.

I WELCOMED OUR TALKS THIS MORNING, MR PRESIDENT, NOT ONLY FOR THE CHANCE TO REVIEW THE EXCELLENT STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS BUT TO DISCUSS HOW WE CAN FURTHER COOPERATE TO BRING TO YOUR CONTINENT AN END TO DOMINATION BY MINORITIES AND TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY RULE FOR ALL. YOU AND I DISCUSSED THESE MATTERS BEFORE WHEN YOU

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FIRST CALLED ON ME IN NOVEMBER 1974. SECRETARY KISSINGER EXAMINED THEM WITH YOU WHEN HE VISITED MONROVIA AT MY REQUEST IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR. WITH YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT, SECRETARY KISSINGER CONTINUED HIS PERSONAL EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND AS YOU KNOW, HE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM TALKS IN TANZANIA WHERE HE HAS MADE CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR PROGRESS. (THIS LAST PHRASE OBVIOUSLY SUBJECT TO DELETION OR MODIFICATION).

YOUR OWN COUNTRY, AND YOU PERSONALLY, PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THIS PROCESS, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO COOPERATING WITH YOU AND TO RECEIVING YOUR COUNSEL. AS A REPRESENTATIVE NOT ONLY OF LIBERIA BUT OF ALL AFRICA, I ASK YOU TO TAKE HOME WITH YOU MY GOVERNMENT'S PLEDGE THAT WE WILL NOT CEASE OUR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA THAT WILL GUARANTEE ALL ITS PEOPLES THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OUR TWO PEOPLES HAVE ENJOYED FOR SO LONG.

ONCE AGAIN, MR PRESIDENT, TO YOU AND MRS TOLBERT AND TO THE
OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR PARTY, WE WISH YOU A WARM WELCOME. WE THANK
YOU FOR JOINING US IN CELEBRATING OUR OWN INDEPENDENCE AS WE EMBARK
ON OUR THIRD CENTURY AS A FREE PEOPLE. END QUOTE
CARTER

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